



## **Slippery Rock Borough Workshop Meeting**

306 E. Water Street Slippery Rock, PA 16057

**Tuesday July 5, 2022 from 7:00 pm to**

**President Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.**

**Mayor Jondavid Longo led the Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Shawn Pugh performed the roll call. Those present:** Jeff Campbell, Denton Zeronas, Lauren Christmann, Royce Lorentz, Ron Steele, Alex Tuten, Mayor Jondavid Longo, Borough Manager Shawn Pugh. Councilperson John Hicks was not in attendance.

**Citizen Input for Agenda Items Only:** None

### **Guest Speaker:**

**Denny Puko** (See Attached) addressed Council regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He is a planning consultant and is funded by the Local Government Academy. His recommendation is for the Borough to hire a consultant to help complete the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Reports:**

**Jondavid Longo:** Mayor Longo reported that the Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 2, 2022 was a success.

**Lauren Christmann:** Ms. Christmann echoed the mayor's thoughts that the Independence Day event went well.

**John Hicks:** Not in Attendance

**Alexandra Tuten:** None

**Ron Steele** reported that the paving bid was awarded to Shields and that they will begin paving soon.

**Royce Lorentz:** Mr. Lorentz reported that on July 3, 2022 he saw his first two Monarch butterflies in the pollinator garden at library.

**Denton Zeronas:** Mr. Zeronas also reported that the Independence Day event was a success.

**Jeff Campbell:** None

### **Borough Updates:**

**Comprehensive Plan:** Shawn provided Council with an update on the progress that he, Christian Laskey and the Planning Committee have made on the Comprehensive Plan.

**High Grass and Weeds:** (See Attached) Christian Laskey provided examples of high grass and weeds and invasive greenery in the Borough. He has received several complaints recently and is asking Council if they want to adopt an ordinance that would allow him to enforce and cite violations. Christian will look at other municipalities to see what they have adopted and report back to Council.

### **Citizen Input:**

**Layla Joseph:** Layla, an SRU student, addressed Council regarding alleged actions taken by the mayor at the Independence Day celebration, in response to a peaceful protest, in which she thought he acted in a disrespectful and unprofessional manner.

**Cassie Dietrich:** Cassie, an SRU student, addressed Council and the mayor stating that the mayor had been disrespectful in person and on social media to her, other women and women's issues.

**Maxwell Medford:** Maxwell, an SRU student, addressed Council in support of Layla and Cassie stating that he was at the Independence Day celebration and was peacefully protesting in the Borough by writing their message with chalk on the streets and sidewalks.

**Steph Ralston:** Steph addressed Council citing the mayor's disrespectful actions toward her, at the last election, as a main reason for dropping out of the Council race.

**Becky Lubold:** Becky addressed Council regarding the treatment of the peaceful protesters on Saturday. She stated that while she has witnessed the mayor do great things for the community, she is also sad to hear of the mayor's reaction to the peaceful protestors at the event. She stated that the mayor is a representative of a diverse Borough and asked that he is more thoughtful when responding on social media or addressing the public.

**Kristen Vargo:** Kristen addressed Council on behalf of Mayor Longo. Kristen supported the mayor in removing the chalk messages from the streets and sidewalks.

**Jeffrey Lynn:** Pastor Lynn addressed Council as a pastor of the Crossroads Baptist Church. He supported the mayor's request to remove the messages from the sidewalks and roads stating that if the mayor hadn't done it, his congregation would have. Pastor Lynn stated that while he supports the right to free speech, he wished it would have been done in a respectful and tasteful way.

**Matt Kovacik:** Matt addressed council praising all attendees at tonight's meeting, thanking them for their passion and commitment to the Borough of Slippery Rock. He urged the mayor, Council members and protesters alike to harness their passion and to find a way to work together for the good of the community.

### **Councilperson's Remarks:**

**Jeff Campbell** thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their individual contributions. He agreed that the Borough needs to come together and have good, honest conversations with each other adding that there needs to be a mutual respect between individuals on both sides of the aisle.

**Mayor Longo:** None

**Denton Zeronas** addressed the room stating that when he first ran for Council, he was judged for being young. He would like to see more young people involved in government but asked that everyone think about putting all the hard work in to make in an event as great as it can be and to have people come to that event only to disrupt it. Citing that it would cause anyone to become upset.

**Lauren Christmann** people need to learn to respect one another.

**Alex Tuten** stated that we need to work together and be aware. be quick to learn, be quick to listen and to act but to be respectful.

**Ron Steele** stated that the view exiting Grange Alley is blocked due to trashcans. Ron also remarked that he would like to revisit the discussion regarding turning Midway into a two-way as well.

**Royce Lorentz** stated that community input is always welcome and that he hopes that those in attendance come back and continue to contribute.

### **Adjournment:**

With nothing left on the agenda to discuss, President Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn. Royce Lorentz made the motion with Ron Steele providing the second. The motion passed unanimously at 9:35 pm.